

N<sup>o</sup> 6. *The CRAFTSMAN.* 33

*Evening Post*, and that he is answerable for any Mistakes, which may be in it. For my own part, I can only promise, that if I am charged with any fallacious Reasoning, or forced Deductions, I will either endeavour to justify myself against such a Charge, or acknowledge my Errors.

*I am, S I R,*

*Your humble Servant,*

*and Well-wisher,*

MERCATOR.

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N<sup>o</sup> 6. *Friday, December 23.*

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*Opiferque per orbem  
Dicitur.*

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Man, who is engaged in a general Design of correcting Vice, and exposing Fraud, must be contented to suffer a great deal of undeserved Reproach, and to incur the Resentments of numberless Persons without any just Cause; but as I cannot expect, according to the common Course of Nature, to continue much longer in this World; so I would not go out of it without discharging my Conscience, and leaving behind me some publick Testimony of my Zeal against the prevailing Depravity of the Age, in which I live; that, whatsoever may be the Fate of my Country when I am gone, it may appear that I gave no Encouragement, either by my Doctrines or Example, to the reigning Vices of the times; but,

but, on the contrary, endeavour'd, as much as lay in my Power, to check that Torrent of Corruption, which I found breaking in upon us.

Tho' I am but just enter'd on this commendable Work, yet I find that I have already given great Offence to several powerful Bodies of Men in this Town; particularly to the learned Faculty of *Physick*; who, it seems, are highly exasperated against me for recommending the famous Dr. King's *Catholicon AUREUM Basilicum*; or, *The Royal GOLDEN Specifick*, for the *Spleen* and *Vapours*; which a certain learned Fellow of the College (who at present shall be nameless) hath thought fit, in a publick Coffee-house, to call a *Quack-Remedy*.

It is, methinks, a very hard Case, that a Man cannot distinguish himself from the common Herd of his Profession, without gaining the Character of an *Empirick*; and that the same Medicine shall be call'd a *Quack-Medicine* (though it performs never so many unquestionable cures) whilst it remains in a *private Hand*, which shall be immediately transform'd into a *never-failing universal Specifick*, as soon as the Author vouchsafes to make the *College* as wise as himself.

As this Treatment of Doctor King's Remedy is, I believe, chiefly occasioned by my Publication of it; I think myself oblig'd, in Justice both to him and my self, to give the World some farther Account of that Affair, and of the Reasons, which induced me to speak so much in its Behalf.

The *Advertisement* of this Remedy was brought, about a Fortnight ago, by a well-looking, fresh-colour'd Man, in a mourning Livery, in order to be inserted in this Paper; but though the *Doctor* seems to promise very fair, and gives a plausible Account enough of his *Medicine*, yet I am always so cautious of imposing on the Publick, that I resolv'd to make some Enquiries into the Truth of his Allegations, before I gave it the Sanction of my Recommendation in this Paper.

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With this Intent, I waited on the *Doctor* himself for Satisfaction; and happening to be somewhat out of Humour on Account of the late *Lottery*, He chose to convince me of the Virtue and Efficacy of his *Royal Specifick*, by an Experiment on myself. He gave me a small Quantity of it, which I applied according to his Directions; and, in less than the Space of five Minutes, found myself perfectly recovered; seeing things in quite another Light than what I did before, and being in as chearful a Temper as I ever remember myself to have been in my whole Life.

Upon which the *Doctor*, smiling very pleasantly upon me, (as I am told it is his *Custom*) proceeded with great Frankness and Ingenuity to acquaint me with the Method of his obtaining this Remedy, and of several wonderful Cures, which he had performed with it, during his *six Years* Practice in this City. He own'd to me, that He in a manner extorted the *Secret* of this *Nostrum*, with great Difficulty, after much Importunity and several particular Services, (not fit to be mentioned) from the late famous *Dr. Cataline*; having been first convinced of its invaluable Qualities by a most *surprizing Cure* performed on himself; but he assured me that, without Vanity, he might presume to say that he had made no small Improvements on the original *Recipe*. He likewise told me, that altho' he could not pretend, like some eminent, as well as obscure Practitioners, to have travelled into remote Kingdoms for Experience; yet he could truly boast that the Fame of his *Royal Preparations*, and the Adroitness of his Skill had reached the most distant Regions of the World; having had the particular Honour to perform several wonderful Cures, not only in the most flourishing Courts of *Europe*, but likewise in the great Empires of *Turky*, *China*, *Japan*, and *Morocco*, as well as in most Parts of the *East* and *West-Indies*.

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He assured me, in particular, that the Duke *de Ripperda*, late Prime Minister of the Kingdom of *Spain*, was, for some Time, under his Hands; and that he should not in the least have doubted of making a *perfect Cure* of him, if he had not, on a sudden, unhappily fallen into Disgrace. It is not unlikely that This was partly occasioned by his Correspondence with the *Doctor*, at a Time when there were some Differences between the two Courts; which, to the natural Jealousy of the *Spaniards*, might give Grounds of Suspicion, and alarm them with Apprehensions that some dangerous Designs were carrying on, under the Pretence of curing a common bodily Infirmary.

He was farther pleased to inform me, that he hath now several *great Men* for his Patients in the Courts of *France*, *Germany*, *Holland*, *Sweden*, *Poland*, *Sweey*, *Denmark*, *Muscovy*, and *Prussia*; besides most other inferior States and Kingdoms; not excepting even the little pretended Court of *Bologna*; but as it would be lessening the Character of most of these Persons, to have it known that they are subject to such statulent Distempers, so he desired to be excused from specifying their Names.

He then proceeded to give me the Particulars of some equally eminent Cures, which he has perform'd in his own native Country of *Great Britain*; particularly on two *great* and very *antient Families* in *Westminster*; which were, some Time ago, afflicted with the most virulent Degree of this Distemper; and which render'd them so peevish, froward, and perverse, that there was no dealing with them, or bringing them to any sort of Temper. Several Methods were made use of to no Purpose; till at length *Dr. King* being sent for, and his *Remedies* applied, the Symptoms immediately abated, and in a short Time entirely vanished. They continue (blessed be God!) in a more perfect State of Health and good Humour than

than they were ever known before, by the constant Use of *this Specifick*; for it is observed that, upon the least *Intermission* or *Neglect*, they are apt to relapse; for which Reason they always keep a great Quantity of *these Medicines* in their Houses.

He told me also of two *eminent Lawyers*, whom he lately cured of a strange *political Disease*, which they had contracted by reading several pestilent Books and Pamphlets, written in Commendation of the Proceedings of the late Reign. This *State-Spleen* (which is the properest Name I can give it) had intoxicated their Brains so much, that they were constantly raving about the *Danger of the Church*, and would talk Treason publickly in all Places; which had like to have brought *One* of them into Trouble; but the Government considered his Case; and, out of their known Lenity, only desired his Friends to take care of him. Upon the *Doctor's* setting up, *this Gentleman* was one of the first Cures, which he performed, and has continued perfectly well ever since, by the *constant* and *regular* Application of this unparallel'd *Arcanum*. The *Other's* Distemper continued longer upon him, from an Antipathy, which he had taken against any of *Dr. King's* Prescriptions; which was occasioned, as it is said, by an old family Pique; but some preliminary Advances towards a Reconcilement being made by the *Doctor*, (who is reckoned a good natur'd Man, and withal, very proud of his *Nestrum*.) He consented to the Operation; which has not only recovered him from his Illness, but knit a firm and lasting Friendship between them.

To give an Instance of the sudden Alteration, which the *Doctor's Specifick* works upon human Minds, he told me that, about *three Years* ago, the *last* of these Gentlemen grew almost delirious, on Account of a *famous Bill*, then depending in Parliament; and in one of his mad Fits declared, *That he could not sleep in his Bed, if that Bill pass'd; and should think himself*

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*much safer under the Government of France, than that of England. The Bill pass'd; and his Distemper increased upon him; which made him so fretful, untowardly, and capricious, that there was no bearing his Company. He could not keep his Temper in any Place, however solemn and venerable; but raged, kicked, scolded, and protested against every thing that happened to be said or done. At length, it came to that heighth, that he raved downright, and foamed at the Mouth. He dream'd every Night that a Set of Ruffians were employ'd to break into his House, and cut his Throat; which put him under such terrible Apprehensions, that he resolv'd to quit this unhappy Kingdom, and spend the Remainder of his Days under the benign Influence of a French or Spanish Government, as several of his Friends had done already. But before he put this wise Resolution in Practice, He was prevail'd on by the Doctor's Officeousness and Good-nature, (as I have already set forth) who knew his Distemper at first sight, without offering to touch his Pulse; and, in a few Days, made so perfect a Cure, that he was heard to declare in publick, that Things would go mighty well; and that the People of England lived under the best Government in the World.*

He acquainted me with several other surprizing Cures, which he had performed upon all sorts of Persons, both in Town and Country; but as these effectually convinced me of the Doctor's Abilities, so I hope they will be sufficient to satisfy the courteous Reader.

I doubt not, that my publick Recommendation of this incomparable Remedy will induce the whole Tribe of London Medicafters to apply to me for the same Favour; but as the publick Good shall always be my chief View, so I must desire these Practitioners, both Male and Female, not to trouble me with their *Advertisements*, unless their Remedies will bear the same strict Examination.

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